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Students exercise restraint

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It is learnt that there was no cooperation between Natun Bangla Chhatra Samaj and the newly formed National Student Front and the Chhatra Samaj leaders refused to draw a coordinated programme with the front. On October 29, the leaders of these two pro-government student organisations called on the Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor separately though their issue was same and they expressed similar views on the recent syndicate decision to suspend classes till November 12 in view of the situation arising out of the Jagannath Hall disaster.

Besides the existence of two major student forums, there is a third force active on the campus under the banner of "Sangrami Chhatra Oikya" comprising Biplobi Chhatra Andolan, Jatiya Chhatra Dal, Chhatra Federation and the breakaway faction of Chhatra League (Pradhan). Politically they oppose Indo-Soviet axis and have a different programme though they work in collaboration with the student action committee.

On the other hand, the university authorities are facing a new problem following dissolution of the student unions by the government. In absence of elected student unions the university authorities, often find it difficult to handle the student affairs through proper channel.

The campus situation however depends on the overall political developments in the country and the wisdom and policy of the government and the political parties. There is a new realisation among the students that the university education should not be disturbed frequently and the student action committee leaders with whom I talked are seriously thinking about it though they strongly believe that the campus cannot remain free from politics. They also believe if an arms-free campus can be ensured, the tension will be reduced to a great extent.

ntral Student Action Committee procession last week

tudents exercise restraint

By AMANULLAH KABIR

Central Student Committee held a at the Dhaka y Battala on Oct- o protest against alled negligence of h. On the same day rnment student or- n arranged a con- meeting at the th Hall Shaheed They also brought cessions. But unlike ast they refrained tting each other and e campus was spared r ugly scene.

ce the reopening of niversities after long e the rival students to have exercised nt in their conduct aid heed to the appeal Dhaka University hancellor to keep the s free from armed anism. And the oppo- Student Action Committee and the pro-government Natun Bangla Chhatra Samaj seem to have changed their political tactics in view of new situation prevailing on the campus.

But at this moment it would be unwise to conclude that the campus would henceforth remain calm and quiet. The so-called cease-fire, which is being observed by the rival student organisations has been possible because of: a) closure of the universities for more than four months and academic loss, b) the new situation that had arisen following ban on political activities and then permission for only indoor politics and c) the Jagannath Hall tragedy. Faced with the new situation, the student action committee, which claims to have initiated and spearheaded the democratic movement against martial law regime has been maintaining low profile. Though it has its own programme of action it could not decide what should be the strategy suiting the new situation. Leaders of the action committee admitted that in the past their programmes and strategy were guided by emotion and spontaneity rather than reason and objectivity. They pointed out that a well thoughout programme and strategy could not be adopted always as the action committee is composed of forces belonging to different political ideas and ideologies, and the student fronts of political parties often acted according to the party policy and directives. They said the like-minded components of the action committee always tried to act together leading to difference of opinion in the committee. On the other hand, some of the major student organisations—including Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal of BNP (Khaleda) and Chhatra Shibir of Jamaat-e-Islami—are not within the fold of the action committee though they are in the movement along with the student action committee.

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With the formation of the Jatiyo Student Front the student wing of the front, government is facing new development in the pro-government student front. Though Janadal has joined the Jatiya Front the Natun Bangla Chhatra Samaj, which is known as the student front of the Janadal did not join the pro-government student front. Natun Bangla Chhatra Samaj argued that they had been upholding the policy of the government from the beginning and so another pro-government student front was not necessary. When the proposal for joining the united student front came from the Jatiyo Front hierarchy leaders of Natun Bangla Chhatra Samaj met President Ershad and apprised him of their position.

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